

Proposed Rule Amendment to §329.2. Licensure by Examination

Summary of Amendment: The amendment establishes a lifetime maximum of attempts and a low score maximum for taking the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) to comply with changes in the eligibility requirements which will be implemented by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) who owns and administers the test, and eliminates the requirement for remediation after two (2) or more unsuccessful attempts.

§329.2. Licensure by Examination.

(a) Requirements. An applicant applying for licensure by examination must:

- (1) meet the requirements as stated in §329.1 of this title (relating to General Licensure Requirements and Procedures);
- (2) register to take the national exam through this state, and have the first score report sent to this state; and
- (3) pass the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants with the score set by the board. Score reports must be sent directly to the board by the authorized score reporting service.

(b) Re-examination.

(1) ~~[First re-examination.]~~ An applicant who fails the exam ~~[the first time]~~ is eligible to take the examination again ~~[a second time]~~ after submitting a re-exam application and fee.

(2) ~~An applicant can take the exam a maximum of six (6) times. [Second or subsequent re-examination. An applicant who fails the exam twice or more must complete additional education before taking the exam again. The amount of additional education is set forth in the attached chart. To be eligible to register for the exam again, the applicant must submit a letter that identifies the area(s) of weakness and describes the plan that addresses the weakness(s). The letter must be accompanied by proof that the additional education has been successfully completed. Additional education may be one or more of the following:~~

~~(A) A commercial review course.~~

~~(B) An individual tutorial. The completed tutorial must be signed by the tutor and notarized, and include the tutor's curriculum vitae. If the applicant is applying for a PT license, the tutor must be a licensed PT. If the applicant is applying for a PTA license, the tutor must be a licensed PT, or a licensed PTA who is associated with a Texas PTA program.~~

~~(C) Board-approved continuing competence (CCU) activities.]~~

[ADDITIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE APPLICANTS WHO FAIL THE NATIONAL EXAMINATION]

[Requirements based on:	Tutorial Hour Requirements	CCU Requirements
1) number of failures AND		

2) exam score (passing = 600)		
A. Applicants who fail the exam 2 or 3 times		
PT..... 599 – 586 — PTA..... 599 – 584	25 hours tutorial	15 CCUs
PT..... 585 – 566 — PTA..... 583 – 560	40 hours tutorial	20 CCUs
PT..... 565 & below — PTA..... 560 & below	80 hours tutorial	40 CCUs
B. Applicants who fail the exam 4 times		
PT..... 599 – 586 — PTA..... 599 – 584	50 hours tutorial	30 CCUs
PT..... 585 – 566 — PTA..... 583 – 560	80 hours tutorial	40 CCUs
PT..... 565 & below — PTA..... 560 & below	160 hours tutorial	80 CCUs
C. Applicants who fail the exam 5, 6, or 7 times		
PT..... 599 – 586 — PTA..... 599 – 584		60 CCUs
PT..... 585 – 566 — PTA..... 583 – 560		90 CCUs
PT..... 565 & below — PTA..... 560 & below		150 CCUs
D. Applicants who fail the exam 8 or more times must repeat an accredited PT or PTA program.]		

(3) An applicant who receives two (2) very low scores on the exam (scale scores 400 or below) will not be eligible to test again.

(4) An applicant can take the exam for PTs six (6) times and also take the exam for PTAs six (6) times if otherwise eligible to do so.

(c) – (d) (No change.)

